

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1220

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TH CH

SUBJECT: KHUKRIT PROMOTE VISIT TO THE PRC

1. THE PRC HAS GIVEN THE STANDARD PROTOCOL TREATMENT TO VISITING THAI PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PROMOTE WITH CALLS ON PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI, NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS CHAIRMAN CHU TEH, A WELCOMING BANQUET ON JUNE 30, AND AN HOUR-LONG CALL ON CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG THIS MORNING. THESE CEREMONIAL CALLS OUT OF THE WAY, KHUKRIT IS CARRYING OUT HIS IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS, AS EXPECTED, WITH RANKING VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING.

2. THE SPEECHES AT THE JUNE 30 BANQUET WERE SOMEWHAT BLUNTER
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THAN USUAL. TENG BLAMED POSTWAR TENSIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

AND "ABNORMAL" RELATIONSHIPS ON "ONE OF THE SUPERPOWERS" THAT "PERSISTED IN A WAR OF AGRESSION IN INDOCHINA." FAVORABLE CONDITIONS HAD NOW BEEN CREATED, ACCORDING TO TENG, BECAUSE "THIS SUPERPOWER HAS FINALLY SUFFERED IRREVOCABLE DEFEAT UNDER THE COUNTER-BLOWS OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES AND HAD TO WITHDRAW FROM INDOCHINA." HE BLAMED THE INTERRUPTION OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE PRC ON "IMPERIALIST OBSTRUCTION AND SABOTAGE." AS FOR THE "OTHER SUPERPOWERS", TENG SAID "IT INSATIABLY SEEKS NEW MILITARY BASES IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES." TENG VOICED CHINESE FEARS THAT THE "SPECTER OF ITS (SOVIET) EXPANSIONISM NOW HAUNTS SOUTHEAST ASIA" AND ACCUSED THE SOVIETS OF SEEKING TO CONVERT SOUTHEAST ASIA INTO A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE "SOME DAY.". TENG'S PROMISE OF NON-INTERFERENCE WAS A WATERED DOWN STATEMENT THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE "HAVE BECOME KEENLY AWARE THAT THE DESTINY OF A COUNTRY CAN BETERMINED ONLY BY ITS OWN PEOPLE."

3. KHUKRIT'S REPLY TO TENG WAS DIGNIFIED AND TO THE POINT. NOTING THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS A "DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT ELECTED BY THE THAI PEOPLE AND REPRESENTS ALL THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND", HE SAID THE PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM "FREE FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE." HE CONCEDED OUTSIDE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH HEGEMONY AND SPHERES OF INFLUENCE AND THEN SAID SEASIAN COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO OPPOSE "ALL MANNER OF SUBVERSION FROM OUTSIDE." HE REFERRED TO ASEAN, DEFINED THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON A SEASIAN ZONE OF NEUTRALITY AS AN EFFORT TO FREE THE AREA FROM GREAT POWER RIVALRY AND CONFLICT, AND WELCOMED PRC STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR ASEAN AND THE NEUTRALITY ZONE CONCEPT. KHUKRIT MATCHED A STATEMENT BY TENG ON THE EMIGRATION OF CHINESE TO THAILAND WITH A REFERENCE OF HIS OWN TO THE THAI PEOPLES IN SOUTHERN CHINA. HE PRAISED THE CHINESE REVOLUTION BUT FOLLOWED IT WITH A REFERENCE THAT ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL REFORMS IN THAILAND WERE A SIMILAR REVOLUTION INSPIRED BY THE THAI KINGS.

4. THE COMMUNIQUE ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRC AND THAILAND IS TO BE SIGNED TONIGHT.

5. COMMENT: KHUKRIT'S VISIT TO CHINA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FOLLOW THE STRICT DICTATES OF PRECEDENT AND IS UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE CONFIDENTIAL

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SURPRISES. WE ARE, HOWEVER, STRUCK BY THE TOUGHER TONE OF TENG'S SPEECH ON THE U.S. IN INDOCHINA AND HIS CONCENTRATION ON ALLEGED SOVIET SEARCH FOR BASES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. FOR HIS PART, KHUKRIT'S POINT-BY-POINT DEFENSE OF THAI POLICIES AND HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO FLATTER THE CHINESE WAS EFFECTIVE IN AT LEAST PARTIALLY DISPELLING THE IMAGE OF THAILAND COMING TO THE PRC HAT IN HAND. BUSH

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